

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-25 (Canceled).

26 (Currently Amended). A method for producing audiovisual programming in a digital media format to a remote playback device ~~in a content and transmission media aware network attached storage device (NAS) for servicing communications through a gateway to an end device in the network from content stored in the NAS~~, comprising:

receiving, in a first block of a network attached storage (NAS) system, media content from a remote media source at a first data rate and storing the media content;

determining end-to-end quality of service for playback of the audiovisual programming stored on the first part of the NAS system by evaluating a content creation source, a transmission media, end device playback technology and media type;

~~evaluating a hierarchy of content creation sources, a hierarchy of transmission media, and a hierarchy of end device playback technology along with specified quality of service requirements as a part of determining allocated bandwidth and transmission priority;~~

protecting the stored media content by, at least one, scrambling and encrypting the media content using an encryption that is unique to the NAS system;

transmitting, from the first block to a second block of the NAS system, the protected media content as streaming media over a local network based upon the determined end-to-end quality of service at a second data rate that is greater than the first data rate;

receiving, at a second block of the NAS system, the protected media content over the local network to enable real-time playback of audiovisual programming stored on the first block of the NAS system;[[.]]

decrypting and descrambling the protected media content to produce unprotected media content;

decoding the unprotected media content to produced decoded media content; and
generating output video based upon the decoded media content.

27 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 26 further including defining ~~the~~ a hierarchy of content creation sources including professionally recorded and distributed materials, specified media or resolution characteristics, downloaded materials, and personal recording through a home recording device.

28 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 27 further including defining ~~the~~ a hierarchy of transmission media including data packet networks, in-structure dedicated wired coupling, wireless communication links and further defining an associated bandwidth for each.

29 (Original). The method of claim 28 further including defining the hierarchy of end device playback technology including device type including standard display television, high definition television, portable digital video recorder, personal computer monitor, wired high fidelity sound system, wireless headphones, wired headphones and handheld display devices.

30 (Original). The method of claim 29 wherein the hierarchy of end device playback technology further includes associated display resolution parameters.

31 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 26 further including evaluating digital rights management parameters to determine whether a public key infrastructure (PKI) code is enabling and whether ~~the~~ an end device is an authorized device for the PKI code.

32 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 28 wherein the transmission media includes a home based cable network and wherein the method includes transmitting the streaming media content ~~audiovisual programming~~ over the home based cable network.

33 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 28 wherein the transmission media of the local network between the first and second blocks of the NAS system includes at least one of a Bluetooth wireless network and an IEEE 802.11 standard protocol wireless network and wherein the method includes transmitting the streaming media content ~~audiovisual programming~~ over one of the Bluetooth and 802.11 standard protocol wireless networks.

34 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 28 further including storing the media content ~~audiovisual programming~~ in a proprietary and non-standard format to preclude unauthorized access wherein the proprietary and non-standard format is not decipherable by known devices that read digital media.

35 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 34 further including, as a part of producing audiovisual programming in a digital media format, reconstructing the streaming media content ~~audiovisual programming~~ into a non-proprietary and standard format.

36 (Original). The method of claim 26 further including providing port based bandwidth priority wherein a device producing digital media on a first port is given priority over a device producing digital media on a second port.

37 (Original). The method of claim 26 further including evaluating digital rights management rules to control destination usage including a PKI code for the remote playback device and further evaluating capability of the end user device.

38 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 37 wherein the NAS only produces audiovisual programming having copy restrictions to a PKI enabled device that does not have copying capability for making permanent copies of the streaming media content ~~audiovisual programming~~.

39 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 37 wherein the NAS evaluates safety of a transmission link and, based upon the evaluated safety of the transmission link, provides a specified amount of protection for streaming media content ~~audiovisual programming~~ which is to be propagated over the transmission link.

40 (New). A network attached storage device (NAS) system for receiving media content and delivering streaming media content, comprising:

- a media storage module for storing the received media content;
- encryption circuitry for decrypting the received media content and for encrypting outgoing media content;

- first and second NAS system blocks that communicate over a local network that further comprises at least one of a local area network and a wireless local area network;
- and

- wherein the first block of the NAS system:

- receives media content at a first data rate from a remote device and stores the received media content;

- determines end-to-end quality of service for playback of the outgoing media content by evaluating a content source, a transmission media, end device playback technology and media type;

- determines to produce encrypted streaming media at a second data rate to a second block of the NAS system wherein the second data rate is based upon the determined end-to-end quality of service for playback; and

- produces the encrypted streaming media at the second data rate to the second block of the NAS system over one of a local area network or a wireless local area network.

41 (New). The NAS system of claim 40 wherein the first block of the NAS system uploads the media content from a remote media content provider at the first data rate and downloads the media content to the second block of the NAS system by way of a wireless communication link at the second data rate that is greater than the first data rate and that supports playback quality requirements for a playback device coupled to the second block of the NAS system.

42 (New). The NAS system of claim 41, the second block further including a media processing module communicatively coupled to receive the encrypted media content over the local network to enable real-time playback of media content stored on the first block of the NAS, system, the media processing module further including:

- a decryption module for, at least one of, decrypting and descrambling the protected media content to produce unprotected media content;

- a media content decoder for decoding the unprotected media content to produced decoded media content;

- a display processor for generating output video based upon the decoded media content;

- wherein the NAS system employs Quality of Service (QoS) operations to prioritize communications;

- wherein the first block of the NAS system evaluates a hierarchy of content creation sources, a hierarchy of transmission media, and a hierarchy of end device playback technology along with specified quality of service requirements as a part of determining allocated bandwidth and transmission priority; and

- wherein the second block of the NAS system stores received audiovisual programming for playback on a playback device.

43 (New). The NAS system of claim 41 wherein the first block evaluates a hierarchy of end device playback technology including device type that comprises one of standard display television, high definition television, portable digital video recorder, personal computer monitor, wired high fidelity sound system, wireless headphones, wired headphones and handheld display devices.

44 (New). The NAS system of claim 41 wherein the hierarchy of end device playback technology further includes associated display resolution parameters.

45 (New). The NAS system of claim 41 wherein the first block of the NAS system evaluates digital rights management parameters to evaluate whether a public key

infrastructure (PKI) code used for the uploaded media content is enabling and whether the end device is an authorized device for the PKI code.

46 (New). The NAS system of claim 45 wherein the NAS utilizes a proprietary formatting or encryption system for downloading media content from the first block to the second block of the NAS system to preclude reading of the stored materials by other devices.

47 (New). The NAS system of claim 41 wherein the NAS system evaluates previous playback to prevent the same file from be played by more than one device at any time including the NAS system only producing to one device at a time.

48 (New). The NAS system of claim 41 wherein the NAS system is operable to produce a subsequent copy to any playback device only after determining that a previously produced copy has been, removed, deleted, or destroyed.

49 (New). The NAS system of claim 41 wherein the NAS system is operable delete a file copy in conjunction with producing the file to another device if the other device has file storage capacity.

50 (New). The NAS system of claim 41 wherein the NAS system is operable produce the media or files to another device having recording capacity only if the receiving device also has capacity to regulate usage that at least comports with known digital rights management rules.

51 (New). NAS system of claim 41 wherein the NAS system is operable to only produce files to a receiving device having capacity similar to the NAS system for regulating usage and copying.

52 (New). NAS system of claim 41 wherein the NAS system is operable register the ripping or copying status into a central repository to disable user ripping the

same content again in another network unless the first copy is deleted from the NAS system.